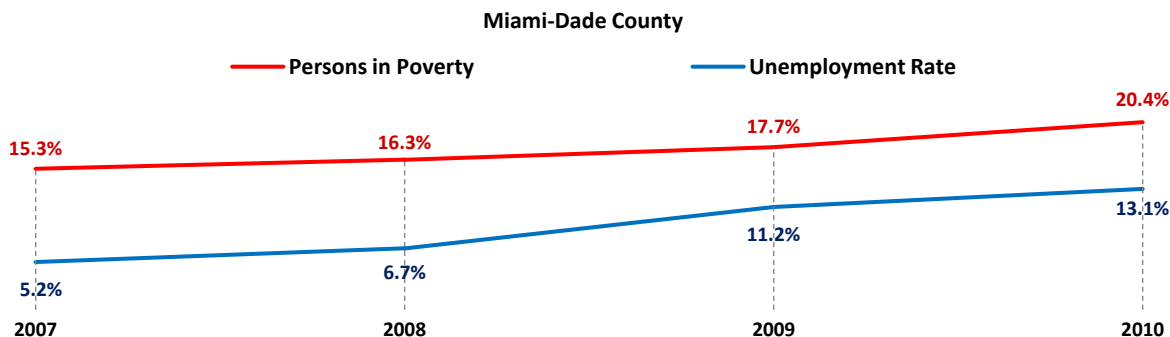
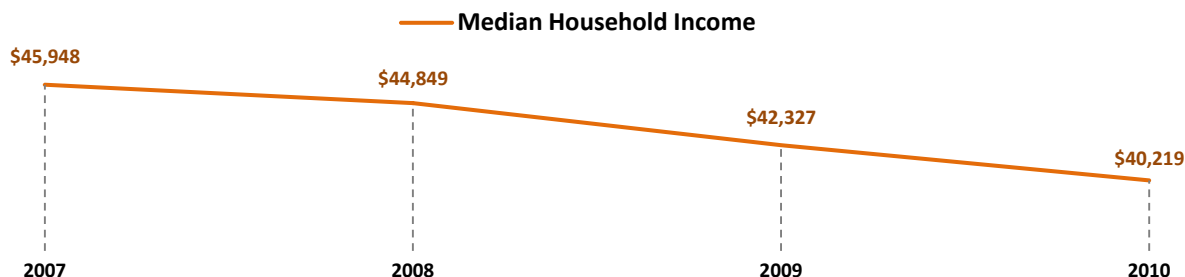


Poverty Reaches the Highest Level Since 1960

Roughly a year after we published a *Data Flash* based on the 2009 American Community Survey, the U.S. Census Bureau released on September 22, 2011 the 2010 estimates of various socio-economic characteristics surveyed over the course of each year. The data revealed some worrisome tendencies in the economy of Miami-Dade County. Most notably, the official poverty rate passed the 20 percent level for the first time in fifty years. Furthermore, the unemployment rate reached 13.1 percent, over two and one-half times the rate in 2007.



In economic terms, many factors are expected to worsen in the midst of a global economic malaise. In the case of Miami-Dade, we find this to result in significant increases in unemployment and poverty. In 2007, Miami-Dade with an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent had a much lower rate than that for the nation. Yet by 2010, the situation was reversed as Miami-Dade had an unemployment rate of 13.1 percent, much higher than the national rate of 10.8 percent. The number of unemployed persons in Miami-Dade almost tripled during this time period, climbing from 61,034 in 2007 to 162,752 in 2010. Further, the civilian labor force fell from 1,243,877 in 2009 to 1,238,377 in the following year; apparently a result of persons dropping out of the labor force. This occurred despite the growth in the working age population. In turn, income and poverty measures worsened.



Median household income, expressed in comparative terms (2010-dollars), declined after 2006, dropping to the current figure of \$40,219.

Overall, the number of persons living below the poverty level increased from 15.3 percent in 2007 to 20.4 percent in 2010. Looking at the most vulnerable type of families, the share of single female householders with income below the poverty level, and those with children under 18 years both increased by five percentage points, to 28.1 percent and 36.4 percent, respectively over the same time period.

Table 1.
Selected Socio-Economic Variables,
Miami-Dade County

Miami-Dade County	2007	2008	2009	2010
ECONOMIC				
Median Household Income in the past 12 months (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars)	\$45,948	\$44,849	\$42,327	\$40,219
Income Below Poverty Level in the past 12 Months:				
<i>Persons, Percent of population for whom poverty status is determined</i>	<i>15.3%</i>	<i>16.3%</i>	<i>17.7%</i>	<i>20.40%</i>
<i>Female householders, No husband present, Percent of families with income below poverty level in the past 12 months</i>	<i>23.40%</i>	<i>24.60%</i>	<i>27.30%</i>	<i>28.10%</i>
<i>- With related children under 18 years</i>	<i>31.40%</i>	<i>33.20%</i>	<i>37.10%</i>	<i>36.40%</i>
Labor Force Participation (Population 16 Years and over):	1,910,219	1,928,267	1,984,223	2,026,674
Civilian Labor Force	1,177,141	1,195,539	1,243,877	1,238,377
Employed or in Armed Forces	1,117,631	1,120,496	1,107,109	1,077,207
Employed or in Armed Forces (Percent)	58.5%	58.1%	55.8%	53.2%
Unemployed (Number)	61,034	79,824	139,052	162,752
Unemployment (Percent)	5.2%	6.7%	11.2%	13.1%
HOUSING				
Median Home value	\$318,100	\$293,100	\$238,500	\$207,100
Selected Monthly Owner Costs				
Housing units with a mortgage:				
<i>At 30 percent or more of household income:</i>	<i>61.9%</i>	<i>59.0%</i>	<i>60.9%</i>	<i>59.3%</i>
<i>Monthly owner cost</i>	<i>\$1,995</i>	<i>1,934</i>	<i>1,889</i>	<i>1,779</i>
Gross Rent				
Occupied units paying rent:				
<i>At 30 percent or more of household income</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>64.5%</i>	<i>65.3%</i>
<i>Median Contract Rent (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars)</i>	<i>\$898</i>	<i>\$899</i>	<i>\$905</i>	<i>\$893</i>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. Prepared by Planning Research, Department of Planning and Zoning, Miami-Dade County. 2011.